CLAIM OR CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of setting up a communication procedure between instances,

5   with one instance being a protocol tester, comprising the steps of:

selecting the instances that take part in the communication procedure;

selecting a protocol layer on the basis of the communication

procedure;

selecting abstract communication interfaces of the protocol layer for

10   the communication procedure;

selecting communication data; and

automatically setting up through the protocol tester the communication

procedure on the basis of the selections made in the above selecting steps,

with the abstract communication interfaces selecting and/or the

15   communication data selecting steps being made graphically and parameters

selectable during these steps being assigned description files that are used

in the setting up step to set up the communication procedure.

2. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the instances selecting step

20   comprises the step of selecting the instances graphically, and/or the protocol

layer selecting step comprises the step of selecting the protocol layer

graphically, and the parameters selectable in these steps being assigned

description files that are used in the setting up step.

3. The method as recited in claims 1 or 2 wherein the abstract communication interfaces comprise Service Access Points (SAPs).

4. The method as recited in claim 3 wherein the communication data comprise at least one type selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDUs) and Abstract Service Primitives (ASPs).

5. The method as recited in claims 1 or 2 wherein the communication data comprise at least one type selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDUs) and Abstract Service Primitives (ASPs).

6. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the communication data selecting step comprises the steps of:

graphically selecting a data format; and

graphically setting up a communication sequence between the selected instances.

7. The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the graphically setting up step comprises the step of entering source code.

8. A protocol tester comprising:

means for selecting instances taking part in a communication procedure, one of the instances being the protocol tester;

means for selecting a protocol layer on the basis of the communication procedure;

means for selecting abstract communication interfaces of the protocol

layerfor the communication procedure;

means for selecting communication data; and

means for automatically setting up the communication procedure

5 through the protocol tester on the basis of the selections of the various

selecting means, with the abstract communication interfaces selecting means

and/or the communication data selecting means being graphical selecting

means and parameters selected by the various selecting means being

assigned description files that are used in the automatically setting up means

10 for setting up the communication procedure.

9. The protocol tester as recited in claim 8 wherein the instances selecting

means and/or the protocol layer selecting means comprise graphical

selecting means and the parameters selected by these selecting means are

15 assigned description files that are used in the automatically setting up means.

10. The protocol tester as recited in claims 8 or 9 wherein the abstract

communication interfaces comprise Service Access Points (SAPs).

20 11. The protocol tester as recited in claim 10 wherein the communication

data comprises one type selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data

Units (PDUs) and Abstract Service Primitives (ASPs).

12. The protocol tester as recited in claim 11 further comprising means for entering source codes.

13. The protocol tester as recited in claim 8 wherein all parameters selected by all the selecting means are assigned description files that are used by the setting up means.

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